Jennifer Glass 8/23/2024

Stop #1: Billings Sawmill

Instructions (also map and hint to 2nd stop)

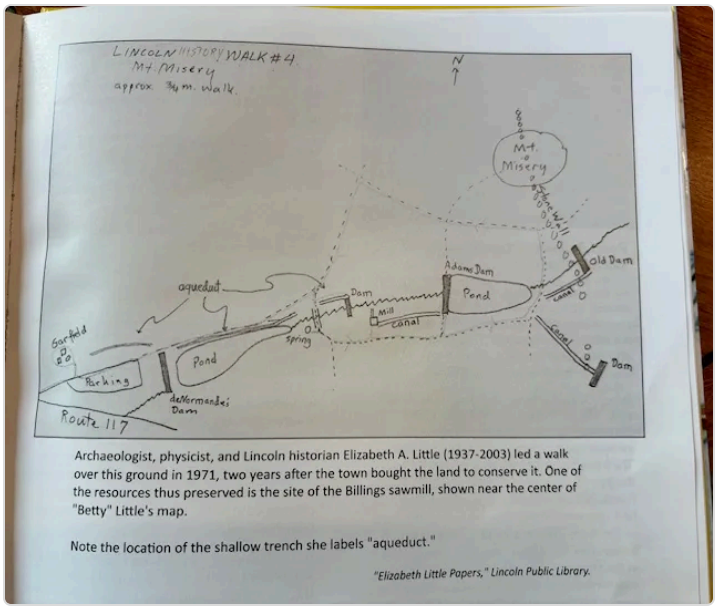
Scan the QR Code, it will bring you to a "padlet" page for this location. Post a selfie to prove you were here!

Optional trivia question: With your selfie, tell us what's your favorite Patriots Day activity (parades, reenactments, Red Sox game, Boston Marathon?)!

Hint to 2nd stop: X marks the spot for your scavenger hunt location. I believe some chickens might be getting "schooled" :)

Stop #1: Billings Sawmill

> *Lincoln's colonists could go far toward feeding and clothing themselves from their farms--but the need for cash remained. Many crafts and industries contributed to the local economy. At the time of the American Revolution, several sites in Lincoln had the combination of timber and water power that enabled the production of saleable lumber. The sawmill near Mt. Misery was started prior to 1712 by yeoman Nathaniel Billing, Sr. The sawmill remained in the Billing family for generations. The Billing's mill would have been a seasonal operation. Probably the Billingses concentrated on farming during the warm months, felled trees after the harvest and ran their saw during the late winter and spring, when the supply of water was most reliable. One man who probably worked at the mill was William Fillis, who was freed from enslavement by a Billing of the fourth generation. The last sawmill cutting logs in Lincoln was the Jenkins-Harrington mill which was operational into the twentieth century and was located near the Weston line.*(Source: A Rich Harvest, The History, Buildings and People of Lincoln, Massachusetts, John C. MacLean, pgs. 176-178 and Imaging the Past at Mount


LINCOLN HISTORY WALK #4
Mt. Misery
approx. 3½ m. walk
N
Mt. Misery
aqueduct
Dam
Mill
canal
Adams Dam
Pond
Old Dam
Canal
Dam
Sawmill
Spring
Pond
Parking
deNormandie Dam
Route 117
Archaeologist, physicist, and Lincoln historian Elizabeth A. Little (1937-2003) led a walk over this ground in 1971, two years after the town bought the land to conserve it. One of the resources thus preserved is the site of the Billings sawmill, shown near the center of "Betty" Little's map.
Note the location of the shallow trench she labels "aqueduct."
"Elizabeth Little Papers," Lincoln Public Library.